

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00625 01 OF 03 011518Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037462 011550Z /43

R 011212Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2455

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 LUBUMBASHI 0625

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS, PDFR, PINT, CG
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH LUNDA LEADER TSHOMBE ISOJ KABWIT

1. SUMMARY: TSHOMBE ISOJ KABWIT(FORMERLY THOMAS) YOUNGER BROTHER OF BOTH MOISE TSHOMBE AND DANIEL TSHOMBE (THIS IS MEANT YAV, EMPERER OF THE LUNDA) WHO DURING OCTOBER 1977 ELECTIONS WA A SET AS COMMISSAIR DE PEUPLE, FOR THE CITY OF LBUJBASHI, CALLED AT THE CONSULATE ON MAY 29.PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH THIS MEMBER OF THE TSHOMBE FAMILY HAVE BEEL

VERY GUARDED BECAUSE HE WASMORE INQUISITVE ABOUT CONSULATE VIEWS THAT FORTHCOMING OUT HIS OWN. HE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH MUBUTU GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST AND MANY SUSPECTED THAT HIS ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS REWARD FOR HIS CLOSE TIES. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS, TSHMBE CAME TO TALK: TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT WHAT THE ZAIRIAN GKOVERNMENT WAS DOING TO HIS PEOPLE, TO REMIND US THAT BECAUSE OF THE WORK OF AMERICAN METHODISTS MISSIONARIES THE LUNDAS LOOKED MORE TO THE UNITED STATES THAN ELSEWHERE FOR HELP, AND TO ASK THAT THE US PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN BRINGING SOVCUAL JUSTICE TO ZAIRE. IN ADDITION, HE OFFERED HIS OBSERVATIONS ON INFILTRATION INTO OTHER SHANAN TOWNS, THE FLNC IDEOLOGY HIS ADVANCE WARNING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00625 01 OF 03 011518Z

ABOUT TROUBLE, AND THE FRUSTRATION OF THE SHABAN COM MISSAKRIES DE PEUPLE IN DEALING WITH THE PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. TSHOMBE BEGAN BY SAYING HE WAS CAUGHT IRIA DILEMMNA WHILE HE AS A COMMISSAIRE DE PEUPLE AND A MEMBER OF MPR, HE WAS ALSO A LUNDA AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF

SHABA. THE PRESIDENTS SPEECH SHORTLY AFTER THEIR

INVASION HAD SINGLED OUT THE LUNDA AS THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ATTACK ON KOLWEZI. TSHOMBE SAID HE FOUND HIS POSITION AND THE POSITION OF MANY LUNDAS TO BE VERY DIFFICULT AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SHABA WORSENS. ALREADY MANY LUNDAS HAD BEEN ARRESTED. TSHOMBE SAID HE HAD SPENT MUCH OF HIS TIME SINCE HIS RETURN FROM KINSHASA LAST WEEK IN THE "CITES" OF LUBUMBASHI TALKING INFORMALLY WITH HIS TRIBAL BROTHERS. HE WAS NOW ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT REBELS HAD INFILTRATED THE ZAIRIAN POPULATION OF LUBUMBASHI AND PROBABLY LIKASI INFILTRATION WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF LOCAL RESENTMENT AGAINST FAZ FOR ITS CONTINUED HARRASSMENT AND EXTORTION. PEOPLE WERE AFRAID TO TURN IN INFILTRATORS BECAUSE THE MILITARY WOULD ACCUSE THEM ALSO OF BEING SYMPATHIZERS AND BEAT THEM UP.

3. IN THE PAST SUSPICIOUS BETWEEN THE LUNDA AND OTHER SOUTH SHABAN TRIBES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE LUBA FROM THE KASAI (WHO WERE IMPORTED BY THE BELGIANS TO WORK IN THE MINES AND NOW CONSTITUTE APPROXIMATELY 50 PC OF THE URBAN POPULATION OF LIKASI AND LUBUMBASHI AND THE LUBA FROM NORTH SHABA ON THE OTHER HAVE MADE CONSPIRACIES IN THE CITES DIFFICULT. NOW TSHOMBE EXPLAINED THINGS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUBUMB 00625 01 OF 03 011518Z

HAVE CHANGED. BECAUSE OF THE EXECUTIONS AND PURGE OF MANY LUBA "KASAI AND LUBA/SHABA OFFICERS OF THE FAZ THE LUBA HAVE BECOME MUCH MORE WILLING THAN PREVIOUSLY TO COLLABORATE WITH MOBUTU'S OPPONENTS. TSHOMBE NOTED THAT WHEN THE ARMY DISMISSED THE 1200 OFFICERS OF SHABAN KASAIN, AND BANDUNDU REGION ONLY 400 SHOWED UP TO RECEIVE THEIR FINAL PAY CHECK. HE SPECULATED THAT MANY OF THE REST MAY HAVE GONE TO ANGOLA TO JOIN THE REBELS.

4. TSHOMBE THOUGHT THAT FUTURE EVENTS IN SHABAN WOULD BE DICTATED BY THE NATURE OF THE WESTERN RESPONSE TO THE KOLWEZI ATTACK AND THE PERCEPTION OF THAT RESPONSE BY THE LOCAL POPULATION. ANY SUPPORT FOR THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT WOULD FURTHER ALLENIATE SHABANS FROM THE WEST AND INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A GENERAL UPRISING.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00625 02 OF 03 011540Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037587 011553Z /43

R 011212Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 LUBUMBASHI 0625

EXDIS

IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE WESTE PRESSURE MOBUTU TO RE
SIGN OR OTHERWISE SEEK HIS REMOVAL. WITHOUT A CHANGE
IN ZAIRE'S GOVERNMENT THERE COULD ONLY BE FURTHER
BLOODSHED.

5. TSHOMBE SAID THAT SO FAR SHABANS HAD BEEN HAPPY
WITH THE BELGIANS AND US ACTION IN ZAIRE. IT WAS
OBVIOUS THAT THE BELGIAN TROOPS HAD COME ONLY TO
NIPROTECT THEIR NATIONALS AND NOT TO SUPPORT MOBUTU. BEL
GIAN FONMIN SIMONET'S SPEECH CRITICISING MOBUTU HAD
BEEN VIEWED AS "ENCOURAGING" THE LIMITED US SUPPORT
ROLE HAD ALSO NOT BEEN SEEN AS DIRECTED AGAINST THE
SHABANPEOPLE. HOWEVER FRANCE'S INTERVENTION WAS
VIEWED AS DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE MOBUTU REGIME. ANTI
FRENCH FEELINGS WAS ALSO BEING FED BY REPORTS GF
INNOCENT CIVIANS KILLED IN KOLWEZI BFY LEGIONNAIRES.

6. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE MASSACRES OF EUROPEAN
AND AFRICAN CIVILIANS, TSHOMBE SAID HE DID NOT THINK
THE KILLI GS WERE DONE PURPOSEFULLY ON THE ORDERS OF
REBEL COMMANDERS BUT HAD HAPPENED ON THE VE OF FOREIGN
INTERVENTION WHEN THE REBEL TROOPS HAD BECOME "UNCON
TROLLABLE" TSHOMBE ALSO THOUGHT THAT MANY CIVILIANS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00625 02 OF 03 011540Z

(AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN) HAD BEEN KILLED BY FAZ TROOPS.

7. TSHOMBE SAID THAT HE HAD PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE
MOTIVES AND IDEOLOGY OF THE GROUP NOW CALLING ITSELF
NWE FLNC. TSHOMBE WAS SENT TO ANGOLA TEREETIMES BY
MOBUTU IN 1975 TO MEET WITH THE GROUPS LEADERS. HE

HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY GENERAL NATHANIEL MBUNMA AND HAD TALKED AT LENGTH WITH HIM AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE EX KATANGAN GENDARMES. TSHOMBE WA CONVINCED FROM THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE FLNC PRIMARY MOTIVES WERE TO RETURN SOCIAL JUSTICE TO THE ZAIRIAN PEOPLE AND TO END THE CORRUPTION AND REPRESSION OF MUBUTU. HE STRONGLY REJECTED THE NOTION THAT THE FLNC WAS SOCIALIST OR COMMUNISTS-ORIENTED. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE COMMUNIST BACKED ANTI-MUBUTU FORCES IN ANGOLA BUT THEY WERE MULELEISTS FROM KWILU OR GINZANGA SUPPORTERS FROM HAUT ZAIRE. THEIR NUMBERS WERE INSIGNIFICANT. IN CONTRAST HE BELIEVED THE FLNC LEADERS WERE SHABANS WHO HAD COLLABORATED TOO CLOSELY WITH THE WEST IN THE PAST TO BE INFLUENCED BY THE SOVIETS OR THE CUBANS.

COMMENT: MANY SHABANS HAVE VOICED SIMILAR VIEWS ABOUT FLNC IDEOLOGY WHICH SEEM BASED MORE ON WISHFUL THINKING AND RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY SIXTIES THAN ON PRESENT REALITIES. END COMMENT

8. TSHOMBE RECALLED THAT WHEN HE HAD REPORTED THE NUMBERS AND AGGRESSIVENESS OF THE EX- TJQANGANS FORCES TO MOBUTU IT HAD AT FIRST SEEMED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICT. HOWEVER MOBUTU WAS INFLUENCED BY ZAIRIAN MILITARY OFFICERS WHO SCORNED ANY IDEA OF NEGOTIATIONS. NOW THOSE OFFICERS, ACCORDING TO TSHOMBE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUBUMB 00625 02 OF 03 011540Z

"WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO FLEE FROM BATTLE; THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE FAZ AND THE CRUELITIES IT INFLECTED IN

THE REGION'S POPULATION WERE THE REASONS FOR ITS DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE BETTER-TRAINED AND DISCIPLINED FLNC FORCES.

9. TSHOMBE HAD GIVEN ANOTHER WARNING TO THE GOZ IN THE WEEKS JUST PRIOR TO THE ATTACK ON KOLWEZI. IN MARCH AND EARLY APRIL HE HAD VACATIONED IN ZAMBIA, VISITING LUNDAS IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. HE HAD LEARNED OF THE MOVEMENT OF UNIDENTIFIED TROOPS IN THE ZAIRE-ZAMBIA-ANGOLA BORDER REGION. HE HAD REPORTED THAT TO SHABA'S REGIONAL COMMISSIONER EFAMBE ON APRIL 11 BUT APPARENTLY EFAMBE DID NOTHING WITH THE REPORT. TSHOMBE ADDED THAT THE LUNDAS OF ZAMBIA WERE ALSO AGAINST THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE ARREST OF HIS BROTHER, THE MWANT YAV DURING THE 1977 SHABA CONFLICT.

10. MOBUTU'S UNWILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE SHABA'S PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES WAS ALSO LAMENTED BY TSHOMBE

ACCORDING TO TSHOMBE SEVERAL REQUESTS BY SHABA'S DEPUTIES FOR AUDIENCES WITH THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN DENEID, AND THE FIRST SUCH MEETINGS WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE WHEN FIVE SHABANS AS PART OF THE "COMMITTEE OF FIFTY" REPRESENTING ALL THE REGIONS OF ZAIRE WOULD HAVE MET WITH MOBUTU ABOARD THE PRESIDENTIAL YACHT EVEN THIS RATHER IMPERSONAL CONSULTATION HAD NOT TAKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00625 03 OF 03 020309Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----043936 020315Z /62

R 011212Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2475

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 LUBUMBASHI 0625

EXDIS

PLACE AS THE EVENTS AT KOLWEZI HAD INTERVENED. SHABA'S LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS WERE TO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY MOBUTU DURING HIS LAST STATE VISIT TO LUBUMBASHI IN JANUARY, BUT THEY WERE CURTLY TURNED DOWN AT THE LAST MOMENT BY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER EFAMBE, WHO OFF-HANDEDLY ACCURSED THEM OF " PLOTTING SECESSIN". TSHOMBE WAS GREATLY CONCERNED THAT THE LACK OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SHABA'S ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WAS A NEGATIVE FACTOR IN SHAPING THE PRESIDENTS ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SHABAN POPULATION.

11. COMMENT: TSHOMBE'S POSITION CAN BE TAKEN AS REPRESENTING MANY OF SHABA'S LUNDAS AS WELL AS THE VIEWS OF MANY OF SHABA'S EDUCATED ELITE WHOSE TRIBAL ORIGINS PUT THEM IN THE CAMP OF THE ANTI-MOBUTU MOVEMENT. THE UPSHOT IS THAT THESE ELEMENTS VIEW THE ATTACK ON KOLWEZI AS A STARTING POINT AND A CATALYST AND NOT AS AN END TO THE SHABA CONFLICT. TSHOMBE'S THOUGHTS ON THE LACK OF CONTACT BETWEEN MOBUTU AND SHABAN LEADER ARE MORE DISTURBING WHEN THE LOSS OF THE RESPECTED LUANDA BUSINESSMAN MAWAWA AYIND IS CONSIDERED. MAWAWA WHO DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT IN FEBRUARY 1978 WAS TRUSTED

BY BOTH ZAIRIANS AND EXPATRIATES AND REPUTEDLY WAS
OFTEN CONSULTED BY THE PRESIDENT ON GOZ POLICY IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00625 03 OF 03 020309Z

SHABA. THE CONTINUING HARDSHIPS OF MILITARY RULE IN
SHABA AND THE LACK OF MUTALLY-RESPECTED INTERMEDIARY
MAY HAVE RESULTED IN THE IRREVERSIBLE DISAFFECTION OF
MUCH OF SHABA'S LUNDA POPULATION.
BORG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUBUMB00625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0467
Format: TEL
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806108/aaaadonn.tel
Line Count: 291
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68d9417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2162893
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH LUNDA LEADER TSHOMBE ISOJ KABWIT
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, PINT, CG, (TSHOMBE ISOJ KABWIT)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68d9417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014